



4. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of
- (a) a unique fragment of a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 between 20 and 3360 nucleotides in length, and
- (b) complements of (a),
- provided that the unique fragment includes a sequence of contiguous nucleotides which is not identical to any sequence selected from the sequence group consisting of
- (1) SEQ ID NO:14, 15, 16, or 21,
- (2) complements of (1), and
- (3) fragments of (1) and (2).

26. (Twice Amended) A kit, comprising a package containing:
- a nucleic acid agent that selectively binds to the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, and
- a control comprising an amount of an isolated nucleic acid of claims 1 or 4 for comparing to a measured value of binding of said nucleic acid agent to said isolated nucleic acid of claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1-11 and 26 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended for clarity and now includes specific language for "stringent conditions." Support for this amendment can be found throughout the application and at least on page 11, line 29 - page 12, line 11.

Claim 4 is amended for clarity and now includes language directed to "unique" fragments of SEQ ID NO:1 of a specific length. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the application and at least on page 13, line 13 - page 14, line 25.

Claim 4 is further amended for clarity to eliminate reference to GenBank Accession numbers. The sequences excluded from the subject matter of claim 4 are now identified using their SEQ ID NO. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the application and at least on page 10, lines 14-22 and page 13, lines 19-22.

Claim 26 is amended for clarity to further define "a control" as *an amount of an isolated nucleic acid of claims 1 or 4*, and "an agent that selectively binds to the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1," as a *nucleic acid agent only*. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the application and at least on page 28, lines 16-29.